

Washington for their commitment to volunteerism, their community, and the District of Columbia. Their efforts are extraordinary and greatly appreciated. I congratulate the league on their 100 years of success and look forward to hearing about all the wonderful things the league will accomplish by their Bicentennial.

FEDERAL LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, 10 years have passed since the first consumer enrolled in the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program, an insurance option for Federal employees, retirees and their loved ones created by the Long-Term Care Security Act. This law set a new standard regarding providing for the unique and important medical needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities. Participants in the program are now confident that they will receive help financing the care that they may require. I am pleased to recognize the 10th anniversary of the first enrollment in this important program, and I am proud that its administration is handled by Long Term Care Partners, LLC, which is located in my home State of New Hampshire.

Today, 1 in 10 Americans aged 55 and older carries a long-term care insurance policy; however, it is estimated that 70 percent of people over age 65 will eventually require long-term care. Our Nation's changing demographics and significant medical advances have contributed to an aging population, and addressing the issue of how best to care for seniors and individuals with disabilities should be part of our national discourse on how we support ourselves and our families. These services are critical for so many Americans who need assistance to continue living independently and actively in their communities.

The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program was the first benefit offered to the Federal workforce that was completely employee-funded, coming at no cost to the taxpayer. The program is unique in that, at the time of its inception, it was the first benefit offered uniformly to all Federal employees, including military personnel and staff of the U.S. Postal Service. It is also the Nation's first successful large-scale, long-term care insurance program with consistent benefits, regardless of where the recipient lives.

With nearly 270,000 enrollees, the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program has made a difference in the lives of so many in the Federal workforce. It is the largest group long-term care insurance program in the country and has already paid nearly \$215 million in claims. The program helps its beneficiaries stay where they are most comfortable, with more than 85 percent of these claims going to home and community-based services.

Every family needs to plan for retirement and how to best care for aging loved ones and those with disabilities.

Long-term care insurance is one way that millions of Americans get the support they need to remain independent and active in their communities. For Federal employees, the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program is an important option that provides a sense of security and comfort in knowing that family members will be cared for in times of need.

I stand today to recognize the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program's 10th anniversary and to wish the program continued success as it embarks on its second decade of assisting Federal employees and their families in planning for their retirements.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR YUCEF NADARKHANI

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to share a rare piece of good news related to international religious freedom. On October 11 of last year I submitted for the RECORD the story of a Christian pastor in Iran who had been charged with apostasy and sentenced to death. Earlier this month, after almost 3 years of imprisonment, Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani has been released and is at home with his family.

The good news for Pastor Youcef comes after years of struggle, and we can only imagine the joy his own family feels after a long, difficult fight for his freedom. Many organizations and individuals, often risking their own lives, deserve thanks for their enduring commitment to Pastor Youcef's cause. Pastor Youcef's enduring faith in God saw him through this trying time and his experience is an inspiration to people of faith everywhere.

This moment of relief and thanksgiving comes as a reminder that the liberties we enjoy as Americans come at a high price to those who have fought and continue to fight for our freedoms. And too many people in countries like Iran, Iraq, Egypt, and Pakistan, to name a few, still do not enjoy the basic human rights you and I have here at home.

The persecution of religious minorities and Christians like Pastor Youcef abroad is unfortunately nothing new. That's why I introduced the Near East and South Central Asia Religious Freedom Act in June of last year. The bill came out of coordination with U.S. Congressman FRANK WOLF in the House and my colleague, U.S. Senator CARL LEVIN. It creates a special envoy on religious freedom in the State Department to monitor the status of religious minorities in these particularly vulnerable regions.

We can and we must do more to advance religious freedom abroad. I am sincerely committed to this effort and believe that it is essential to promoting the God-given right to liberty around the world. My colleagues and I are hopeful that the Senate can soon join the House in passing this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY CLUB OF CLEVELAND

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize The City Club of Cleveland, the oldest continuously operating free speech forum in the country.

Often referred to as a "Citadel of Free Speech," The City Club offers an unbiased setting for dynamic discussions and exchange of ideas on important issues of interest to citizens and communities throughout Ohio and the United States. The City Club has succeeded in its mission to inform, educate and inspire citizens by presenting significant ideas and providing opportunities for dialog in a collegial setting, and has secured its place in history as an impartial, vital center for discussion of diverse topics.

The City Club forums encourage active debate and participation by the audience. Over the years, local, national and international leaders have been featured as speakers and have addressed a wide variety of subjects which have impacted our region, state and Nation. These sessions encourage nonpartisan, spirited debate and discussion about important topics. I have been honored to speak at the City Club on several occasions and have enjoyed the robust dialog.

I would like to congratulate The City Club of Cleveland on 100 years of success.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JON HOLDER

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to pay tribute to Mr. Jon Frederick Holder, a man who was instrumental in helping my staff prepare for a hearing the Senate Finance Committee held on private long-term disability benefits in September 2010.

Jon died unexpectedly last spring at the youthful age of 71. The world has lost a dedicated attorney, a civil rights activist who took part in the Selma-Montgomery march, and an advocate who specialized in disability law. Jon spent the last 30 years working alongside his wife Kathleen at their small law firm in Maine defending people whose voices are muffled in a process that can become mired in duplicative forms, draconian due dates, and burdensome record collection.

Jon worked with my staff as the Committee's hearing date neared, staying late into the evening to distill with witty anecdotes and a razor sharp understanding, ERISA's complex statutory law, its legislative history and the seminal judicial interpretations that dramatically changed it. He described the insurance industry's corporate structure and its goal to reduce the benefit ratio percentage. Then he put flesh on that structure as he described what achieving that reduction goal means to the individual whose disability check suddenly stops arriving.

A philosophy major-turned-lawyer, an avid bicyclist who loved the ocean,